

same and paid the same, and after a few years, are allowed to remain whether they are doing an excellent job or not. Prior to the three-year tenure period, teachers are often fired or simply laid off after a year in a school, depending on factors including current financing or the number of tenured teachers at a certain level of salary. In good charter schools, some teachers rise to the top as in any enterprise and should be paid more for their extra work, training, and professional responsibility. Teamwork, trustworthiness and collegiality are required for the development of a good school culture in which all teachers are involved in promoting the entire vision and mission of the school. The current paradigm of separation and isolation must be changed, and negative influences must be able to be removed from the enterprise so that student achievement and collegial teamwork is not hindered. Charter schools allow excellent teachers to develop skills and talents for the good of the students and the school. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well for the good of students at Liberty and the whole school. Parent concerns and ideas are also valued here, and parents should always feel welcome to participate actively in the school.

The question about accountability and whether the state should have the ability to shut down a charter school if the school were not performing well, was expanded by Congressman Schaffer, who noted that the few charter schools that have closed may not have responded well to their client's needs and charter expectations, and that is a good thing, but that interestingly, other public schools that are not performing well are not similarly challenged to keep their doors open, but rather often receive MORE financing and help.

Overall, the hearing was fruitful and an opportunity included sharing information about Liberty's successes and challenges, in written form with 125 people, while responding to questions publicly. I am very grateful for this greater visibility for our wonderful school, and very grateful for each of your ideas, time, commitment and care.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 310, the resolution that honors National Charter Schools Week and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system.

Charter schools have been instrumental in demonstrating that accountability and innovation work together to improve our Nation's schools. This is because of the special agreement that these schools make with their state agency or local school board. The agreement is simple: the school is allowed to determine the best way to provide a quality education and, in exchange, it must produce results.

Charter schools have demonstrated that achievements can be made when local school districts are given the flexibility to shape their education programs in ways that work best for their teachers and students. Of course, in allowing flexibility, charter schools must produce real, accountable results.

And that is the bottom line—results.

In fact, an overwhelming majority of the initial reports on charter schools have demonstrated that charter schools are achieving their academic goals. But not only are academic results promising. Reports show that parental satisfaction is high, students are eager to learn, teachers are enjoying teaching again, administrators are set-free from administrative red-tape, and more dollars are getting to the classroom.

I am not here today to only tout the successes of individual charter schools. The Pub-

lic Charter Schools Program has a purpose greater than just creating new schools. The larger purpose of this program is to create a dynamic for change and improvement in our public school system. In the eight years since the first charter school opened its doors, we have seen the benefit that charter schools have had for the education system as a whole. Reports have found that wherever large numbers of charter schools are clustered, system-wide academic improvement has been accelerated.

Let us take a lesson from the charter schools experience that local flexibility and accountability are essential elements in the formula of successful schools.

The federal government has invested over \$120 billion in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. We have spent all of that money and can't say definitively that it has led to an increase in academic achievement. We must do something to ensure that the hard-earned money of the American people is spent wisely. Charter schools provide evidence that we should emphasize local flexibility and accountability in our federal education reforms.

The bottom line is that charter schools work because they are freed from burdensome regulations and held accountable for academic results. I commend these schools for their innovation in achieving academic results and for the contribution they have made to our nation's public school system. As we move forward in reforming our federal education programs, let us not forget the lessons learned from the charter schools experience.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 310.

The question was taken.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 310.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-232)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 2, 2000.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Paul P. Marcone, Chief of Staff for the Honorable James A. Traficant, Jr., Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I have received a subpoena for testimony before the grand jury issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Sincerely,

PAUL P. MARCONE.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

1803

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 6 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each of the first two motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 300, by the yeas and nays;